

Another fascist acquitted

# Rittenhouse verdict sparks outrage

By Monica Moorehead

Workers World expressed outrage—along with the rest of the country and the world—over the devastating Nov. 19 acquittal of 18-year-old white vigilante Kyle Rittenhouse for the murder of two anti-racists, 36-year-old Joseph Rosenbaum and 26-year-old Anthony Huber, and the wounding of a third, Gaige Grosskreutz. These killings occurred during an Aug. 25, 2020, protest against the police shooting two days earlier of a 27-year-old Black man, Jacob Blake, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Blake had been shot seven times in the back and remains paralyzed from the waist down. None of the police officers involved has been charged in the shooting.

On Aug. 26, 2020, reacting to the shooting of Blake and the murders by Rittenhouse, along with all the protests ignited by the public lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May, six teams in the National Basketball Association playoffs carried out an unprecedented and historic wildcat strike. It caught the NBA hierarchy and their billionaire bosses completely off guard.

This strike began when the Milwaukee Bucks refused to come onto the court for a scheduled game against the Orlando Magic. Besides the Magic, other teams—the Los Angeles Lakers, Portland Trailblazers, Houston Rockets and Oklahoma Thunder—showed solidarity with the Bucks by not playing as well.

These teams, along with others eligible for the 2020 playoffs, had been playing in a contained environment—a bubble—separated from their families in Orlando, Florida, aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Six Women’s NBA teams refused to play their regular season games on Aug. 26, with many of the players



Brooklyn Bridge in New York City, Nov. 19. More on protests, 3.

PHOTO: JEENAH MOON

to demonize them as “arsonists,” “looters” and “rioters.” These instructions reflect the biased view that Rittenhouse feared for his life when he committed the murders that led to charges of reckless homicide and intentional homicide.

Rittenhouse traveled from Illinois, openly carrying an AR-15 rifle, in order to terrorize the multinational anti-police brutality protest. The Kenosha police were caught on video before the shootings, thanking Rittenhouse and other vigilantes for their presence and providing them with water. The police allowed Rittenhouse to continue to brandish his weapon,

minutes after the shootings before the teenager voluntarily turned himself in to the authorities.

The all-white jury deliberated for over three days on whether Rittenhouse exercised the right to self-defense. During his testimony, Rittenhouse cried crocodile tears saying that he was armed as his civic duty to defend life and property against the protesters. Rittenhouse, like Dylann Roof who slaughtered nine Black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, was not a lone terrorist. Just like the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis, Rittenhouse and his ilk are an extralegal arm of the repressive state, i.e. the cops and prisons, inherent within the capitalist system.

As Sam Marcy stated in his 1983 book, “The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?”: “If the growth of the KKK and the Nazis were an isolated phenomenon divorced from the degenerative effects of monopoly capitalism, if these groups had no ties to and were not ... promoted by formidable sections of the ruling class, they would be merely a sterile and stagnant combination of racist thugs. But that is not the case.”

This is why the Kenosha police encouraged Rittenhouse

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Staten Island, N.Y.

Amazon unleashes cops on union organizers

This Nov. 18 press release from Movement Media has been slightly edited.

The militant mood of workers, whose increasing strikes and union drives are making headlines, erupted Nov. 11 during a union-busting, captive-audience meeting called by Amazon bosses at the company’s Staten Island facilities.

After workers dramatically challenged bosses at the meeting, Amazon responded by ramping up its anti-union tactics, getting two union leaders arrested on Nov. 15.

VICE magazine revealed that Amazon managers’ attempts to smear union organizing was decisively repelled by workers at the bombshell Nov. 11 meeting, which was secretly taped and shared with labor reporter Lauren Kaori Gurley. (tinyurl.com/jckajt26)

Workers are tired of accepting daily lies and abuse from bosses, and that was caught on tape. One worker, referring to the Amazon workforce’s 150% turnover rate, can be heard telling the bosses, “You have to start treating people better instead of turning them over at a rate that’s just insane.”

In addition to the punishing rate-based pace of work, workers brought up work-induced injuries, workers not being told about COVID exposures and a number of other pro-union challenges, before the managers abruptly ended the meeting.

The fightback mood might explain why New York Police Department cops arrested two Amazon Labor Union members on trumped-up charges Nov. 15,



Union supporters outside Amazon warehouse in Staten Island, New York, Nov. 15.

harassing them for using a small fire pit to keep warm as frigid November temperatures dive.

ALU president Chris Smalls stated on Twitter, “After 7 months of campaigning outside Amazon with over 15 barbeques and weeks of having a fire pit for the cold nights, Amazon and its land-owner lied to the NYPD to have me arrested.”

Online video shows ALU member Brett Daniels, an Amazon employee, cuffed by police. Daniels’ Twitter feed read, “Just got released from NYPD precinct 121,” where cops wouldn’t “tell me why I was being arrested.”

The arrests show why the ongoing dynamic union campaigns, like those at Amazon or Starbucks, need solidarity and support. Workers forming unions at six Starbucks stores in Buffalo, N.Y., are also facing every dirty union-busting tactic in the book.

“The workers are strong and fighting mad, but they can’t do it alone,” said activist Jay Zacarias, a member of WAAR (Workers Assembly Against Racism).

“That’s why we’re having our next workers’ assembly at Jeff Bezos’ luxury penthouse on Black Friday.”

The protest will be Nov. 26, 6 p.m., at Jeff Bezos’ luxury Manhattan residence, 212 Fifth Ave., New York City. Centibillionaire Bezos is founder and executive chairman of Amazon. For more: Instagram waar\_nyc. The protest will also stop at the residence of Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz.

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WORKERS WORLD

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

Join us in the fight for socialism!

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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# The people’s verdict: GUILTY!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

After a trial thoroughly tainted by racism, on Nov. 19 a jury acquitted white supremacist Kyle Rittenhouse on all counts in the murder of two people and shooting of a third at a Black Lives Matter protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Aug. 25, 2020. That rally was protesting the shooting of Jacob Blake, a young Black man, by Kenosha cops.

After the verdict was announced, Jacob Blake’s uncle, Justin Blake, standing outside the county courthouse, said: “What we saw here was a terrible, tragic injustice. These young men were trying to support my nephew, shot seven times in the street in the back, in front of his children. The mayor, the police chief, the people who were running the Army, they all have blood on their hands today.” (Kenosha News, Nov. 19)

Across the U.S., activists quickly organized rallies on the day of the verdict and continuing the weekend of Nov. 20-21. They asserted fierce and brave determination to oppose white supremacy and defend Black Lives Matter. Participants rallied to emphasize no backing down in the face of vigilante or state intimidation. Dozens of rallies were reported, including the following.

In **Kenosha, Wisconsin**, Nov. 19, people took to the streets to trace Rittenhouse’s route the night he attacked. Demonstrators carried signs that read: “Reject racist vigilante terror” and “The whole system is guilty!” Protesters chanted “No justice, no peace” and “Anthony and Jo Jo,” referring to Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, the two white anti-racists shot and killed by Rittenhouse.



Kenosha, Wisconsin, Nov. 19 PHOTO: EVELYN HOCKSTEIN

In **Milwaukee** — 40 miles from Kenosha — people marched Nov. 20 from Red Arrow Park to the federal courthouse to voice their outrage. Protester Mariah Smith said, “Understand — in the world there is a public enemy number one, and it is Black folks; and if you stand with the public enemy, you are a public enemy as well. For them [Huber and Rosenbaum] to come out and to stand with us, and they lost their lives, speaks volumes.” (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 20)



Milwaukee, Nov. 20

In **New York City** Nov. 19, hundreds of marchers shut down the Brooklyn Bridge as they advanced into Manhattan in an evening protest.



Brooklyn, Nov. 19 PHOTO: YUKI IWAMURA

In **Raleigh, North Carolina**, a crowd of protesters grew to about 75 people on Saturday evening, with speakers leading chants of “No justice, no peace!” and “Abolish the police!” Passersby honked their car horns in support. One speaker said, “It doesn’t matter who’s in charge,” because the criminal justice system is “fundamentally flawed.” A social media meme called for protest: “Rittenhouse is a racist killer. People’s verdict: GUILTY!”



State Capitol Building, Raleigh, North Carolina, Nov. 20 PHOTO: ROBERT WILLETT

On the evening of Nov. 19 in **Chicago**, over 100 protesters marched from Federal Plaza demanding justice. The next day the Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow Push Coalition denounced the verdict as a call for “open season by the violence of right-wing military.” (abc7chicago.com, Nov. 21) Over 1,000 people marched again through the downtown Loop. Organized by Black Lives Matter Chicago and other local activist groups, the marchers bore signs reading “Stop white supremacy” and “We’re hitting the streets to protest this racist injustice system.”

In **Minneapolis** Nov. 20, a crowd of hundreds, organized by Black Lives Matter Minnesota, rallied outside the Hennepin County Government Center and marched



Minneapolis, Nov. 20

through downtown. People called for the abolition of white supremacy and denounced the racist U.S. legal system, including disproportionate incarceration rates for people of color. Some protesters carried signs with the names of the people Rittenhouse shot.

In downtown **Oakland, California**, more than 100 people gathered at Oscar Grant Plaza at a Nov. 19 protest called by People’s Strike-Bay Area and several other organizations. After the crowd marched to the federal building, speakers delivered strong messages supporting the struggle for Black lives in Wisconsin and all over the country and advocating an end to mass incarceration at county jails and prisons. Demanding justice and an “end to white supremacy” were speakers from local organizations including the Anti Police-Terror Project, the Black Panther Cubs, CURYJ (Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice), All of Us or None, Malaya and Workers World Party.



Oakland, California, Nov. 19 WWW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Activists in **San Diego** gathered at Children’s Park downtown the evening of Nov. 19 to protest. By 8 p.m. over two dozen people, most of them dressed in black, bore witness against racism.

Within minutes after the verdict was announced, a message from the Coalition for Community Control Over the Police in **Los Angeles** called for protest: “Kyle walked. All out.” (patch.com, Nov. 19)



Portland, Oregon, Nov. 20

In **Portland, Oregon**, a crowd of 200 people assembled Friday night near the Multnomah County Justice Center to protest. Police declared the gathering a “riot” after one incident there and warned all present to leave or risk being met with force. In response demonstrators threw bottles and stones.

Judy Greenspan contributed to this article.



## Rittenhouse verdict sparks outrage

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to carry out murder of those supporting Black lives. This is why the Black Panther Party was targeted for extermination by the FBI’s COINTELPRO and local police — because they defiantly defended their right to bear arms against racist state repression. This is why the survivor of the Kenosha shooting, Gage Grosskreutz, stated in his lawsuit that he had the right to carry a gun to protect himself from right-wing thugs like Rittenhouse.

The truth is that Rosenbaum and Huber

gave their lives in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protest. In fact, Huber’s mother, Karen Bloom, called her son a hero, and millions more agree with this sentiment. This trial and its outcome was not about one individual vigilante; it was an indictment of the entire rotten (in)justice system. It is a blatant attack on the heroic Black Lives Matter struggle versus white supremacy, in the forms of domestic terrorism, the police, the courts and the judges. This acquittal is an effort to instill fear and intimidation throughout a movement that has brought millions into

the streets to demand an end to systemic racism, especially in the aftermath of the publicized lynching of George Floyd. The acquittal of Rittenhouse is a stark reminder of the racist and fascistic war on Black and other oppressed peoples and their allies. President Joe Biden apologized for the verdict, insisting that “the jury system works, and the verdict had to be abided by.” (cnn.com, Nov. 19) Colin Kaepernick said it all Nov. 19 on Twitter: “We just witnessed a system built on white supremacy validate the terroristic acts of a white supremacist. This only further validates

the need to abolish our current system. White supremacy cannot be reformed.” The only answer to the atrocities that took place against Jacob Blake, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Anthony Huber, Joseph Rosenbaum and Gage Grosskreutz, and countless other victims and survivors, is to stay and grow in the streets. Our demands must be to not only abolish the police, the courts and white supremacy but to abolish their breeding ground — the entire rotten capitalist system. □



# From Alabama to Australia

## Solidarity for striking mine workers

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Global solidarity for striking Alabama coal miners ramped up with a Nov. 18 worldwide Day of Action.

This kicked off early Nov. 16 when the Tonight Show featured a tribute to striking workers with Tom Morello of the legendary Rage Against the Machine and Canadian-American singer-songwriter Grandson. Belting out “Hold the Line,” the musicians flipped through placards boosting the UMW strike, as well as recent actions by steelworkers, dairy workers, teachers and nurses: “Nobody said it happens overnight, But if you’re looking for a sign, Remember everybody that stood up before you. And, oh! Hold the line!”

On strike since April 1, the Brookwood, Alabama, United Mine Workers members are holding on in their fight against Warrior Met Coal, which is backed by global hedge fund BlackRock. As Haeden Wright, president of UMW Auxiliary Locals 2368 and 2245, said in a Oct. 31 Twitter broadcast, the struggle is over “higher compensation, better benefits, better holidays — on every front of the contract. We’ve been making them millions of dollars!”

Alabama anthracite coal is low sulfur coal, exported to China and other

countries to use in steel production for energy-generating wind turbines. The Brookwood miners have received substantial support from Alabama conservation organizations because of their contribution to green energy.

Now miners have used the global connection to take their fight from rural Alabama to the rest of the U.S. and to countries worldwide.

During the Nov. 18 Day of Solidarity, coal miners, other labor union members and supporters demonstrated on the steps of Alabama’s capitol in Montgomery. On the other side of the world in Queensland, Australia, 50 Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) members raised their fists to show support from the largest union of workers in those industries in the country.

In New York City, Alabama miners were joined by members of the Retail, Warehouse and Department Store Union and the Communications Workers in front of BlackRock’s main headquarters in Manhattan. RWDSU support was especially meaningful, as that union is spearheading historic organizing at the Bessemer, Alabama, Amazon warehouse, less than 30 miles from Warrior Met mines.

In Latrobe, Pennsylvania, miners

*Now miners have used the global connection to take their fight from rural Alabama to the rest of the U.S. and to countries worldwide.*

demonstrated in solidarity outside Xcoal company headquarters. The Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council commented on Twitter that Xcoal buys coal that Alabama workers risk their lives to mine and protested Warrior Met Coal’s refusal to provide fair wages, affordable health care and reasonable time-off for its workers.

Protests were held at BlackRock’s subsidiary, Fidelity Investments, at K and 19th Streets in Washington, D.C. — a center of Big Business wheeling and dealing. Union support came from the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the Metro Washington Labor Council. Another protest was held outside Fidelity Investment in Boston with solidarity from the AFL-CIO and Massachusetts Community Labor United.



PHOTO: UNITED MINE WORKERS

In Newport, Calif., union members of the Orange County Labor Federation show solidarity with striking Alabama coal miners, Nov. 18.

In Denver, Colorado, UMW members and allies brought the giant inflatable rat of anti-union shame to a rally outside the office of Griffis Residential — whose Chief Operating Officer Tom Barta has substantial ties to anti-union Big Coal.

In Newport, California, two dozen people demonstrated outside the BlackRock corporate office. Rallyers wore UMW camouflage shirts to their “Class War” and held signs with the Alabama miners’ slogan, “We Are One.” The Orange County Labor Federation sent several delegations from different unions. Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley addressed the crowd: “We’ve been through so much in the last 21 months. That we cannot get a company that is employing people who are doing the most difficult work — life-threatening work, health-threatening work — to support their workers is just tragic.” (Los Angeles Times, Nov. 18) □

## At John Deere, strike weapon works

By Martha Grevatt

After a month-long strike, workers at 14 John Deere plants and warehouses are returning to work. Their new contract, ratified with 61% support, is a big improvement over the first two contracts a majority of the workers had rejected. The United Auto Workers represents 10,100 Deere workers in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas and Georgia.

In a virtual meeting of rank-and-file supporters, a spouse and mother of strikers said, “We didn’t lose anything.” John Deere, which has profited from an

unequal and divisive two-tier pay structure since 1997, was not able to impose a third lower tier for future workers. In the new contract, Deere workers’ pay will increase by 20% over the life of the six-year contract. This is a huge amount by any contract standard; even though at the current exorbitant rate of inflation, wages will at best keep pace with prices.

A key factor differentiating this contract from the first two is improvements to the “Continuous Improvement Pay Plan.” When a department exceeds a production quota, the workers receive a quarterly bonus, but if they fall short, the

workers essentially take a pay cut.

The company has been regularly increasing the quota, while refusing to take into account production interruptions caused by parts shortages. The new contract addresses worker concerns and modifies the grievance procedure to make it easier to challenge management on these issues.

Although the media has defined changes in the third contract as “modest,” for workers they are huge.

None of these gains would have been possible without the strike weapon. Workers were infuriated by Deere’s



PHOTO: UAW LOCAL 838 FACEBOOK

John Deere strikers, Waterloo, Iowa.

demands for concessions and the paltry wage increases first offered, even though profits and executive pay are at record highs. Deemed “essential workers” during the pandemic because they manufacture agricultural equipment, UAW members have been toiling at long hours, seven days a week, while their bosses grow richer.

Morale was boosted tremendously by widespread community and labor support. A GoFundMe campaign, initiated by the rank-and-file UAW caucus Unite All Workers for Democracy, provided grocery vouchers and bulk food items to help weather economic hardship during the strike. Significantly, members of the International Association of Machinists, who are under a separate contract, had walked out along with the UAW members.

Almost 40% of Deere strikers voted to even reject the third contract. Perhaps they wanted to use their leverage to get rid of the two-tier wage structure altogether. In any case, the strike is seen as proof that: “When we fight, we win!”

*Martha Grevatt is a retired Fiat Chrysler (now part of Stellantis) worker and served on the executive board of UAW Locals 122 and 869.*

## Sympathy strikes at Kaiser hospital

By Dave Welsh  
Oakland, Calif.

Crowds of “sympathy striking” union workers jammed the sidewalks at Kaiser hospital in Oakland Nov. 18 and 19, accompanied by a choir of honking horns and rousing chants. The all-day pickets were there to support Stationary Engineers Local 39, on strike for nearly two months at Kaiser.

California Nurses Association and National Nurses United — the nation’s largest union of registered nurses with over 175,000 R.N. members — as well as SEIU United Healthcare Workers West had called



WW PHOTO: DAVE WELSH

Kaiser nurses striking in sympathy with engineers on strike for two months, Oakland, California.

24-hour sympathy strikes at medical centers in northern California.

Short staffing is a major issue affecting all hospital workers and their patients. Local 39 says it is striking because Kaiser refuses to bargain in good faith over wages that are below what engineers make at other area hospitals.

UHWW issued a fact sheet on “sympathy striking at Kaiser.” Here are some key points:

“Doesn’t the ‘No Strike’ clause in our contract prohibit us from engaging in a sympathy strike? No. The Ninth Circuit

Court of Appeals has ruled that ... a general no strike clause does not prohibit sympathy strikes. [Children’s Hospital v. California Nurses, 2002]

“Can we be permanently replaced for sympathy striking with Local 39? No. Local 39’s strike is an Unfair Labor Practices strike, so by extension our sympathy strike is a protected, concerted union activity. ... It is illegal to permanently replace unfair labor practice strikers.

“Can Kaiser legally fire or discipline me for sympathy striking? No. Since our sympathy strike is a protected, concerted union activity, it is illegal for Kaiser to even threaten an employee with discipline.”

*Dave Welsh is a delegate to both the San Francisco and Alameda County Labor Councils.*



## Brunswick, Ga.

# Black pastors protest racism, gather to support Arbery family

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

In the town of Brunswick, Georgia, Gregory McMichael, his son Travis McMichael and their neighbor, William “Roddie” Bryant, are on trial for the racist murder of unarmed 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery on Feb. 23, 2020. Arbery was chased and gunned down as he jogged past their Satilla Shores homes.

Defense attorney Kevin Gough represents Bryant, who was not carrying a gun, unlike the McMichaels, but who videotaped their pursuit and murder of Arbery. Although Bryant’s role is not as

central to the multiple charges all three men face, his attorney has been the most aggressive and calculating in escalating racial animus.

Gough has repeatedly argued for a mistrial, alleging that the presence of well-known civil rights pastors, including the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, appear “intimidating” to the majority-white jury. The ministers are sitting quietly next to Arbery’s parents in the courtroom to give them support.

Gough peevishly asked, “How many pastors does the Arbery family have?” His own response, “We don’t want any more Black pastors coming in here,” brought a flood of religious leaders from multiple faiths to Brunswick on Nov. 18. An estimated 750 people — a mix of ministers, imams, rabbis, community members and out-of-town supporters — formed a “Wall of Prayer for justice for Ahmaud” around the courthouse.

Throughout the trial, a crowd of justice-loving people has consistently been outside the courthouse on the tree-shaded lawn, often breaking out in prayer or song.

After the prosecution gave closing remarks Nov. 22, the jury, composed of 11 white members and one Black juror, began their deliberations. □



Pastors, activists demonstrate in Brunswick, Georgia, Nov. 18.

# ‘We must protect our trans comrades’

By Renée Imperato

*The following remarks were presented at the Nov. 19 Trans Day of Remembrance event held by SAGE—Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders—at their New York City headquarters.*

My dearest comrades in struggle,

As you all know, we have made significant progress in many ways. However, what has become a danger to our community is the increasing prospective anti-trans legislation on the agenda in 17 states, much of it fueled by the bigotry of reactionary politicians and the comments of some so-called “comedians” in the media on Netflix and others.

Oh, sure, we hear them whining about First Amendment rights.

Historically, we know, first are the jokes which lead to a climate of violence, which has caused the murder of countless trans people, especially trans people of color. We must protect our trans comrades from these racist, transphobic attacks.

Which leads me to this question, does the free speech of fascistic elements have priority over the very right of any oppressed community or people's right to exist?

We must respond to these attacks on our community with a variety of options. Whether it be writing letters, rallies, demonstrations or even the possibility of civil disobedience, we must do all that we must do in the spirit of all those who sacrificed everything for our freedom. □



# Oppose the racist recall of Kshama Sawant!

By Jim McMahan  
Seattle

The ruling class from Seattle and beyond is trying to get rid of socialist City Council member Kshama Sawant in a recall election Dec. 7. They charge she supports the Black Lives Matter movement and opposes policies of big business and big real estate.

Sawant is an immigrant from India and was formerly a community college economics teacher. She was voted into office during a wave of working-class support for raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour in 2013, and she has been recognized for being instrumental in winning that fight.

Sawant has built a coalition of working-class supporters, who oppose Mayor Jenny Durkan’s policies, and has pushed the City Council to reluctantly support many of her progressive initiatives. Significantly, she spearheaded the successful campaign to impose a \$250-million-a-year “Amazon Tax,” to be used to

fund affordable housing, homeless programs and a Green New Deal.

The pro-tenant Council member has helped win renters’ rights, including a law to limit residential move-in fees, and bans on winter evictions and school-year evictions for families of students and school staff members. She is a leader in the fight for rent control, a policy that is very popular among tenants in a city where rents are overpriced and out of the reach of workers.

In relation to policing, Sawant has promoted the passage of a first-in-nation ban on the use of teargas, rubber bullets and other so-called “crowd-control” weapons by the Seattle Police Department.

## ‘Big Business, Big Real Estate’ behind recall

The recall campaign has filed three charges against Sawant, which are racist and have to do with her being a pro-working-class activist and not a typical bureaucrat or “pro-boss” politician. The first charge against her is that she led a

march to Mayor Durkan’s house, whose address is protected. Other forces led it; she did not.

The second charge is that Sawant threatened public safety by opening City Hall to Black Lives Matter protesters during a pandemic. However, the rally was very COVID-safe. And the final charge is that Sawant allegedly misused public funds to support a ballot initiative named “Tax Amazon.” In fact, this was a small sum, which was spent months before the initiative was even filed.

Members of the ruling class are falling all over themselves to get Sawant out of office. The Recall Sawant campaign has raised nearly \$1 million, and more money is coming in. These corporate heads, big real estate developers, Trump donors and other right-wingers were able to get a recall vote set for Dec. 7, a time when there is usually a very low turnout of working-class voters.

But Sawant has allies. She is backed by 21 labor unions; Socialist Alternative, of which she is a member; the Rev. Robert



Seattle City Council member Kshama Sawant with supporters.

Jefferey Sr., of New Hope Baptist Church; Rebecca Saldana, Washington state senator; Noam Chomsky, author and activist; and Nikkita Oliver, community leader and City Council candidate. Sawant also has the support of over 1,500 workers and students, who have volunteered for the Kshama Solidarity Campaign. They all say “Vote NO” to the recall on Dec. 7. □

# Honor Day of Mourning—Support Workers World

Workers World honors Indigenous peoples on their commemoration of the 52nd National Day of Mourning on Nov. 25, on so-called “Thanksgiving.” On that special day, Native people pay homage to their ancestors and tell their true history as the original inhabitants of this country, while exposing European colonialists’ massive crimes against Indigenous people, including theft of their lands and foods, obliteration of their culture, and racism, oppression and genocide.

In 1970, United American Indians of New England gathered in Plymouth, Mass., site of the original “Pilgrim” invasion, and observed the first National Day of Mourning. Only Indigenous people spoke then, and this is still true.\*

Workers World has attended the Day of Mourning commemorations every year since 1981 and has reported firsthand on these events on our pages.

WW applauds Indigenous peoples in the U.S. and globally who fight oppression and lead struggles to save lands, forests and rivers from capitalist destruction. Our newspaper hails courageous Native water, land and forest protectors who lead these movements, often putting their lives on the line to confront rapacious corporations, which, in their reckless drive for profits, harm the planet.

We especially honor those who have lost their lives in these struggles, including Indigenous organizer and Lenca leader, Berta Caceres, of Honduras.

WW has continually supported Native peoples’ struggles on the lands, in the streets and in our newspaper. We call on our readers and supporters to support these movements and join in the commemoration of the National Day of Mourning.

## Your help is needed!

The WW Supporter Program was founded 44 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper. Since the early 1990s, it has supported workers.org, the website where new WW articles are posted daily, and each week’s full issue is displayed in a pdf document. The newspaper is printed and mailed out monthly.

For annual donations of \$60, \$120 or \$300, members receive a year’s subscription, letters about timely issues and gift subscriptions. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us.) Or read it at workers.org/books.

Write and mail monthly or annual checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. (Include your name and address.) Or donate at workers.org.

\*For more history and information, read “National Day of Mourning: The truth about the Pilgrims’ invasion and 400+ years of genocide that followed” in the Nov. 28, 2019 issue of WW newspaper at workers.org.



# What’s in your water?

By Betsey Piette

What’s in your water? Can you trust that paper wrapped around your take-out sandwich — or the plastic clam-shell — not to contaminate your food? Just what makes your carpet stain-resistant? Should you finally toss out that old Teflon pan?

While seemingly unrelated, these questions stem from recent revelations that “forever chemicals” — used to coat that paper wrap, plastic package, nonstick cookware, in most stain- and water-resistant products, and in flame retardants, cosmetics and even dental floss — contain high levels of carcinogenic chemicals.

The omnipresent forever chemicals involve several thousand synthetic chemicals known as PFAS — polyfluoroalkyl substances — that repel oil and water and withstand heat. Over time, these chemicals build up in the bodies of people and animals. Unleashed in the environment, they take hundreds of years or longer to break down.

There are over 9,000 known PFAS compounds, with 600 used in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found PFAS in the blood of most people they tested, raising concerns over widespread public exposure.

In January 2021, Scientific American magazine reported on a study by the Environmental Working Group that found the drinking water of most people in the U.S. likely contains forever chemicals. Widely used, released and carelessly disposed of over decades, PFAS are found virtually everywhere in the soil, in the water we drink and even the air we breathe.

Numerous studies show that when these chemicals leach into food and water, they cause cancer, liver disease, kidney problems, decreased immunity, birth defects and other health problems. DuPont, 3M and other chemical companies which manufacture these products have known this for decades.

### Manhattan Project connection

DuPont’s Teflon was first developed for use during World War II in the Manhattan Project, which created warheads, liquid-fuel tanks and the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ever on the lookout for more profits, DuPont quickly found a use for these war-related chemical compounds in mass-produced consumer goods.

In the 1950s, several Manhattan Project researchers joined 3M, when that company began to commercially produce PFAS chemicals. Best known for the PFAS-based water and stain repellent Scotchgard, the company agreed in 2000 to stop making PFAS chemicals but declined to declare them hazardous.

On Nov. 19, bipartisan legislation was introduced in Congress to ban PFAS in U.S. food packaging. Its passage is far from certain, given anticipated opposition from the chemical industry. A similar bill passed by the House in 2020 was blocked by a Senate filibuster.

Earlier that week, the Environmental Protection Agency released draft reports on two forever chemicals — PFOA (perfluoro octanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluoro octane sulfonic acid) — found to be “more toxic than previously reported.” The EPA labeled them “likely carcinogenic to humans” and aims to establish drinking water limits for PFOA and PFOS by 2023.

The EPA has known of the harm caused by these chemicals for decades and done very little about it. Even extremely low levels of PFAS have long been associated with a wide range of health problems. Yet



DuPont’s Washington Works, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

PHOTO: MADDIE MCGARVEY

the EPA lets companies producing PFAS set their own contamination levels.

### Deadly contamination

There is no federal drinking water standard to test if PFAS chemicals are causing harm. But under the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act, the EPA must demonstrate evidence of harm before it can test a chemical. In the last 40 years, the EPA has restricted just five out of tens of thousands of chemicals.

Contaminant concentration in drinking water is measured as parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb). PFAS are measured in parts per trillion (ppt) — the equivalent of one drop of water in 20 Olympic size swimming pools.

Independent research has found contamination levels higher than one part per trillion of these chemicals can increase the risk of testicular cancer, liver tumors, high cholesterol and other health problems. At 10 ppt, upwards of 80 million people in the U.S. risk exposure. Yet in a statement to Scientific American, the industry-based American Chemistry Council claimed there was no scientific basis for setting contaminant levels lower than 70 ppt.

### Who is regulating the PFAS danger?

While the Trump administration pushed back against any efforts to regulate PFAS and promised to veto any legislation to regulate the chemical industry, presidential candidate Joe Biden outlined detailed campaign promises to control and regulate the contamination.

To ensure passage of the legislation introduced Nov. 19, President Biden could circumvent any filibuster by issuing an executive order setting limits on PFAS contaminant levels in drinking water — or even ban their production.

There is little evidence he will do so. Biden’s political career originated in DuPont-controlled Delaware. He is just another politician in DuPont’s pockets.

And whether under a Republican or Democratic administration, there has been little change in the EPA’s ability to regulate the chemical industry’s 70-plus years of production of PFAS. The industry controls politicians on both sides of the aisle.

### DuPont’s decades of duplicity

In 1951, DuPont opened a major facility in Parkersburg, West Virginia, to manufacture Teflon. By 1961 the company knew that PFOA, used in Teflon, was toxic. Over the decades DuPont pumped hundreds of thousands of pounds of PFOA powder into the Ohio River and over 7,000 tons of PFOA-laced sludge into open, unlined storage ponds.

As chemicals seeped into the ground, PFOA entered the local water table, which supplied drinking water for over 100,000 area residents.

In the 1970s, DuPont found high levels

of PFOA in the blood of its factory workers but failed to notify the EPA. In the 1980s they established links between PFOA contamination and birth defects, after testing the children of pregnant workers in their Teflon division — of seven births, two had eye defects.

In 1984 the company found PFOAs in dust ventilated from its factory chimneys, which spread far beyond the plant’s boundaries. In 1991 DuPont scientists suggested an internal safety limit for PFOA in drinking water of one part per billion. Water tested outside the plant contained PFOA levels three times higher.

All of this came to light during a class-action lawsuit, filed against DuPont by attorney Rob Bilott in 1999, over the corporation’s extensive contamination around Parkersburg. During prolonged litigation stretching over a decade, DuPont’s response was to raise their self-imposed PFOA levels to 70 ppb.

### Corporate profits vs. people’s health

A major problem in limiting chemical contaminants has been corporate manipulation of environmental regulations.

When publicity around Bilott’s lawsuit pressured West Virginia to increase PFOA oversight, DuPont got company scientists appointed to the state’s Department of Environmental Projection, which then increased the allowable contamination threshold to 150 ppb.

In 2004, DuPont settled Bilott’s class-action suit, covering 80,000 plaintiffs in six water districts, for \$343 million. An EPA lawsuit against DuPont for the company’s failure to disclose health risks from PFOA was settled in 2015 for \$16.5 million, and DuPont agreed to phase out PFOA production.

But these fines were less than 2% of DuPont’s profits from PFOA production! Products using PFOA were important to DuPont’s profits, worth \$1 billion annually at that time.

Bilott’s book “Exposure” (2019) details how DuPont hid its in-house occupational health and toxicity studies and the plant’s illegal dumping of hazardous waste. The lawsuit is also the subject of the film “Dark Waters,” released in 2020.

On May 19, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where this writer lives, sued DuPont, Chemours and 3M for contaminating groundwater and soils with firefighting foam containing PFAS at three sites in the county. The lawsuit charges the companies have known since the 1960s that the chemicals are toxic, which DuPont denies. Forever chemicals used in firefighting foam at the Willow Grove military facility in nearby Bucks County, Pennsylvania, have left residents unable to use local drinking water since 2016.

According to the Berghahn Journals, over 2,330 known PFAS drinking or groundwater contamination sites in the U.S. have been identified as of March 2021. The tap water of nearly 110 million people in the U.S. is tainted with PFAS. (tinyurl.com/fypxv5z8) □

## TD Bank: STOP LINE 3!

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Activists held a rally outside TD Bank Nov. 19 in Philadelphia to demand TD stop bankrolling destruction of Native lands.

Protesters chanted, handed out flyers to passersby, performed a “Follow the Money” skit and listened as speakers condemned TD’s environmentally damaging policies. They celebrated the decision by the Folk Arts — Cultural Treasures Charter School to close all their accounts and withdraw over \$1 million from TD Bank to protest the bank’s role in funding Enbridge’s Line 3 pipeline and other fossil fuel projects.

TD is the largest financial backer, with

\$9.59 billion invested, of Enbridge’s Line 3 Pipeline, a steel tube that will transport 760,000 barrels of oil per day, 1,100 miles from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada to a storage terminal in Wisconsin. It will cross more than 200 water bodies, including the Mississippi River twice, as well as sensitive watersheds, ecosystems and pristine northern Minnesota landscapes.

Despite significant grassroots and legal resistance, construction continues in Anishinaabe territory. If built, Line 3 would contribute as much damage to the climate as 50 new coal-fired power plants and would endanger more than 800 wetlands and 200 waterways.

Philadelphia Water Protectors organized the event. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia, Nov. 19.



# The Cuban people have the right to defend themselves

By Yisell Rodríguez Milán

*This article was published in Granma Nov. 18 and republished in CubaNews after translation. The protest actions that U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries attempted to organize in Cuba Nov. 15 flopped. The anti-revolutionary Cuban playwright, Yuniór García, who is a major figure in this article, has since its publication left Cuba and sought exile in Spain.*

Not at 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 14, nor at any time on Nov. 15, did Cuba's people allow someone spoon-fed by the foreign nation that has most harmed the homeland to disrupt our tranquility with the taste of war, or replace our peace with revenge, a revenge that has been festering over more than 60 years as a result of our irreverence toward U.S. edicts. And we express ourselves only a few miles from the same Yankees who, using similar pretexts and similar plans, have bombed peoples in the Middle East and encouraged hatred and violence in Our America.

The fact that events announced for Monday, Nov. 15, bear not a trace of authenticity or spontaneity has been made clear by the 29 public statements from U.S. authorities. Add to this their logistical support, courses for the training of agents of change and a media operation mounted on social networks from U.S. territory, using bots to falsify reality.

We [Granma journalists] arrived in the La Coronela neighborhood of La Lisa, where Yuniór García lives, on Sunday

afternoon, Nov. 14. García is the latest manufactured ringleader attempting to front a process of political destabilization in Cuba. This was the day on which he had announced plans for a performance in which José Martí's anti-imperialist loving rose was to be sullied.

"Nobody is paying me to be here," said young Eduardo Guisado Castellanos, a self-employed worker, speaking with us live on Granma's Facebook page. Guisado firmly insisted that he was there to defend the Revolution, into which he was born and in which he intends to be when he dies.

"I came to tell Yuniór García, the mercenary, who is hiding many things behind the pacifism he claims to defend: The homeland is being given away, the tranquility we have always had, our unity as Cubans," said the young man. In reference to the news circulating about what might happen in the community, he said that he was no soldier, he wasn't "repressing" anyone; he was only "a resident who is defending his neighborhood and supporting his people."

"We're not fascists; we are the people, people who defend our victories, true to Fidel, to the death. They brag that they are willing to shed their blood . . . from Miami. There are young people here who are willing to give our own lives for the homeland. Let them understand that very clearly," he added.

He reported that the foreign press had interviewed him, asking what he is doing there, to which he answered: "We know



PHOTO: GRANMA

**Signs of pro-socialist sentiment in Havana, in the neighborhood where a U.S. sympathizer lived before opting for exile in Madrid after Nov. 15 actions flopped.**

that there are people, wage earners, who may join him, and we are avoiding a people-to-people confrontation."

"There is an atmosphere of tranquility here," Solangel Arró La O, another resident, told our cameras, from a site near the building displaying the most flags in all of La Coronela.

Arró La O warned us about the effect that posts circulating on social networks might have on citizens, which is why she made sure to convey security to the parents of the children attending the local elementary school, sending them a message of confidence in the reopening of schools, protected by their teachers and the entire community. [Schools had been closed because of COVID.]

Teacher Yulexi Aponte Mendoza told us that he came out to remind the agent

Yuniór García of Fidel's teachings, those that have allowed our people to reach this Nov. 15 with the pandemic under control, with the several vaccines that have been developed in Cuba, and children returning to school.

During our live interview, a doctor, dressed in white, a color the counterrevolutionaries have attempted to misappropriate and add to their 15N symbols, addressed the construction of Yuniór García's leadership, nonexistent in the community where the doctor has lived for more than 25 years.

Barbara Corrales Arce is the family doctor who, based on her life experience, warned young people not to let themselves be manipulated by what they see on social networks, assuming that something is real that may not be real at all. □

## Part 2

## Marxist-Leninist revolutionary

# Thomas Sankara – unconquered

By Devin Cole

*Second and final part of the author's appreciation of the role of assassinated African political leader Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso. To read part 1, visit [workers.org/2021/11/60147/](https://workers.org/2021/11/60147/)*

### Pan-Africanism

In the revolutionary government that Thomas Sankara created in Burkina Faso in August 1983, he emphasized both Marxism-Leninism and Pan-Africanism. In 1984, Sankara visited Ethiopia, Angola, Congo, Gabon, Mozambique and Madagascar. He proclaimed that his Burkinabe government recognized the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and that the Organization of African Unity, a Pan-Africanist anti-colonialist organization, should not meet without the SADR.

Sankara sought to establish links between Burkina Faso and all African nations to form a Pan-African front against Western colonialism and neocolonialism, the latter of which is a final stage of capitalism-imperialism.

Sankara expressed his refusal to accept foreign aid, famously saying that "he who feeds you, controls you." He recognized that any "foreign aid" rendered to Burkina Faso would contain the thinly veiled motive to overthrow the socialist government and establish a neocolonial power, whether through France or the U.S.

Sankara called on African nations to repudiate their foreign debt, saying that they had no obligation to pay it: "This debt has nothing to do with us. Which is why we cannot pay it. The debt is another form of neocolonialism, one in which the

colonialists have transformed themselves into technical assistants. Actually, it would be more correct to say technical assassins." ["Thomas Sankara Speaks," pp. 373]

Sankara's call for all African nations to repudiate this debt and unite in an all-African front against colonialism earned him the admiration of millions of nationally oppressed and working-class people and the ire of neo-colonialists and the capitalist class.

### 'A people who are convinced, not conquered'

In one of his final speeches, on the fourth and final anniversary of socialist Burkina Faso, Sankara spoke to the 8 million people of the country on the urgent need for all Burkinabe to unite together and defend the Marxist-Leninist revolution and ideology.

During the last year of his government, left-opposition groups formed against Sankara, many of them Maoist in origin. These were opposed to Sankara's plan to halt certain projects in order to rededicate the people to the task of political education and organization.

Sankara had proposed rehiring teachers and other workers, who had been dismissed following the 1983 revolution because of their anti-revolutionary views. These workers had been convinced of the successes of the revolution and had joined the ranks of the masses who supported it. The left-opposition groups did not believe in this shift, with even members of the CNR attacking Sankara for this decision.

Despite this opposition, Sankara spoke clearly that while Burkina Faso had accomplished much in four years, much

more was needed. He projected this would involve a five-year plan continuing into the 1990s. He correctly theorized that the reactionary forces of neocolonialism and imperialism were growing and gaining traction, and the masses would have to be more vigilant than ever in resisting their attacks.

He criticized those who attacked the revolution and dismissed those who did not completely agree with the revolution, saying that they must be convinced, not suppressed. He stated: "The revolution does not look for shortcuts. It requires that we all march together, united in thought and in deed. This is why the revolutionary must be a perpetual teacher and a perpetual question mark. If the masses do not yet understand, it is our fault. We must take the time to explain and take the time to convince the masses so that we can act with them and in their interests." ["Thomas Sankara Speaks," pp. 399]

### 'Disastrous'?

One can read the above profile of Thomas Sankara, and then read a criticism of his "disastrous" leadership, and still be confused or unsure. So here's a summary:

Thomas Sankara put women in government and demanded women's liberation be at the forefront of the revolution. He devised a plan that enabled the Burkinabe to beat back the creeping desertification of their land, an incredible feat to accomplish. His leadership led to the vaccination of over 2 million children, opened thousands of pharmacies and oversaw the literacy rate rising to historic highs.



Thomas Sankara

Thomas Sankara opposed all Western imperialism and colonialism and believed that not only should the foreign debt placed on many African nations by Western imperialism and colonialism be refused by the nations, but that it should be canceled altogether. He advanced planning for all African nations to work cooperatively for a liberated future free of capitalism and colonialism.

Thomas Sankara believed that if the working-class masses did not understand Marxism-Leninism, it was the fault of the Marxist-Leninists, himself included, for not doing enough to teach it. He emphasized that education must always be prioritized in order for the revolution to be defended and that those who did not understand were not to be condemned, but convinced.

Understanding that Marxism-Leninism guided Thomas Sankara's revolutionary stance and work — and understanding the monumental work accomplished in Burkina Faso under Sankara's socialist leadership — can we then say his leadership was disastrous? No.

Thomas Sankara's leadership was revolutionary and necessary for the good of Burkina Faso and of humanity. His words and actions live on.

Thomas Sankara, despite his assassination, remains unconquered. □



# Victory for farmers in India!

By Tania Siddiqi

On Nov. 19, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leader of the fascist Bharatiya Janata Party, declared that he would concede to protesting farmers’ demands to repeal three pro-capitalist farm laws. For over a year, farmers have engaged in coordinated acts of resistance across India.

As reported in Workers World, farmers led the historic Jan. 26 protest on India’s Republic Day, called multiple “rail roko” actions on Feb. 11 and withstood brutal acts of state terror on Oct. 13. Those moments and countless others created the farmers’ movement.

Since Modi’s announcement, people have taken to the streets to celebrate this monumental victory. At the border towns of Tikri and Singhu, sites which protesting farmers have occupied since the start of their movement, farmers played instruments and danced to protest songs throughout the night Nov. 19. ([tinyurl.com/apxx7h6y](https://tinyurl.com/apxx7h6y)) In Canada and Britain, members of the South Asian diaspora also celebrated the farmers’ massive achievement on Nov. 20. ([tinyurl.com/47ppyp5h](https://tinyurl.com/47ppyp5h))

### The fight continues

While the Modi government’s statement that it will repeal the farm laws is a win for the people, the farmers’ struggle is far from over. They have received only verbal assurance from the prime minister. The government has yet to actually repeal the laws.

On Nov. 20, the 359th day of the



Farmers in India celebrate victory on Nov. 19.

farmers’ protest, Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of more than 40 farmers’ unions, issued a press release in response to Modi’s decision. The farmers state that Modi failed to address all their demands and did not acknowledge that more than 700 farmers have died since the start of the movement. Moreover, the Prime Minister did not address “hundreds of false cases in which thousands of farmers have been implicated in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere.”

The same day, Kisan Ekta Morcha, one of the farmers’ unions, reported that the Chief Minister of Telangana state, K. Chandrashekar Rao, had announced that the Telangana government would give three lakh (about \$4,036) to the families of farmers’ protest martyrs.

([tinyurl.com/5xedvtu3](https://tinyurl.com/5xedvtu3)). The union stated that Modi has yet to offer any remedy for the sacrifices made by the martyrs.

On Nov. 21, SKM issued a letter to Prime Minister Modi stating their demands. ([tinyurl.com/m4wz827e](https://tinyurl.com/m4wz827e)) SKM calls for the implementation of a Minimum Support Price on all agricultural produce. This would ensure that every farmer in the country receives a minimum profit for their harvest, even if the cost to grow the crop comes to more than the price listed on the open market.

SKM demands that all criminal cases targeting the protesting farmers be dismissed; and the group calls for compensation and support to the martyrs’ families for the martyrs’ sacrifice to their cause and for the Modi government to build a memorial in memory of the martyred farmers. SKM demands that the

land at the Singhu border be used for the memorial.

### Action remains in place

SKM has stated that it will continue the struggle until all its demands are met. Farmers will hold a Mahapanchayat (a gathering of people from several villages) Nov. 22 in Lucknow to secure justice for the farmers who were murdered by state agents Oct. 3 in the Lakhimpur Kheri Massacre.

Nov. 26 marks the one-year anniversary of farmers’ protests at the Delhi borders. Throughout the country, SKM has called for protesters to commemorate the anniversary by participating in tractor rallies and bullock cart parades in capital cities. There will be a march to Parliament via tractor trolleys Nov. 29.

The farmers’ struggle continues, but they are not alone. Workers around the world are in deep solidarity with the protesting farmers, and the South Asian diaspora will continue to lend support. Black Panther Party Chair Fred Hampton, on Oct. 9, 1969, said: “Dare to struggle, you dare to win. Dare not to struggle, then you don’t deserve to win. We have to struggle properly.” ([tinyurl.com/7966pc74](https://tinyurl.com/7966pc74))

The farmers in India have shown that organized struggle against capitalism leads to victory — workers will win. Kisan mazdoor ekta zindabad! Solidarity with the farmers in India! Build workers’ power! Build a workers’ world!

*Previous Workers World coverage of the farmers’ struggles in India is posted at [workers.org/tag/india/](https://workers.org/tag/india/).*

# Haiti: Desperation and resistance

By G. Dunkel

Nov. 21 — Nearly 4.4 million Haitians need immediate food assistance, and 1.2 million suffer from extreme hunger. Washington has recognized that conditions for the masses in Haiti are so dire that the U.S. government extended protection against deportation for Haitians already living in the U.S. by 18 months.

That decision omitted Haitians who attempted to enter the U.S. during September and October; people deported from the United States by ICE were predominantly Haitian.

Tens of thousands of Haitians who lived and worked in Latin America, mainly in Chile and Brazil, have lost their jobs because of a recent economic downturn. They see the United States as a haven to survive in but presently out of reach. The number of Haitians trying to cross the border in November fell precipitously, when Haitians realized the Biden administration was hostile to Haitian refugees. (Washington Post, Nov. 11)

Some Haitians have applied for asylum in Mexico. Others are congregating in northern Colombia and Panama.

According to the U.N.’s International Organization for Migration (IOM), the U.S. deported 800 children to Haiti between Sept. 19 and Nov. 4. These children, born of Haitian parents outside of Haiti, were not Haitian citizens and had never been in Haiti. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has offered no legal justification for this move.

There are tens of thousands of Haitians in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. They work in the sugar fields, construction and the tourist industry. To pressure



PHOTO: CHANDAN KHANNA

Protest against fuel shortages and to demand the resignation of President Jovenel Moise, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sept. 20, 2019.

the Haitian community, while avoiding labor shortages in Dominican industries, Dominican immigration authorities are deporting pregnant Haitians and those who have recently given birth.

Forty-five women were deported Nov. 4. From Nov. 9-10, another 53 pregnant women were deported by bus to a small, isolated town in central Haiti called Belladère. One gave birth on the bus. Another had a cesarean section.

Numerous organizations, from the IOM to popular organizations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, denounced these expulsions as inhumane. Dominican immigration authorities have been following the U.S. anti-immigrant example.

About a month ago, 16 U.S. citizens and one Canadian from the Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) were kidnapped by a local paramilitary force called 400 Mawozo. The CAM website announced Nov. 21 that two of their kidnapped

members had been released and were in “excellent spirits.”

No details — such as names, pictures or home towns — were provided. CAM has released no additional information about either of the people just released or those still being held. This is an unusual policy and leads to speculation.

Jen Psaki, Biden’s press secretary,

said that the White House and the State Department would have no comment on the story. She did acknowledge the day after the kidnapping that the FBI and other agencies — most likely the CIA — had significant assets in Haiti. According to the Miami Herald, the two released were adults with medical problems, and no ransom was paid.

According to Christianity Today’s November issue, many of the missionaries — who provide education and medical services that the Haitian state doesn’t — have been leaving. Their decision is not just because of the kidnapping, but because of the multiple physical attacks on pastors and stern warnings from the State Department to leave.

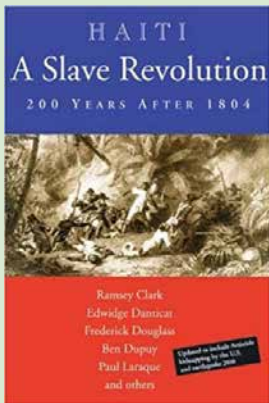
On their way out, these religious leaders are using the opportunity to call for the United States to boost its support for the Haitian police and army.

What the Haitian people need from workers and progressives in the United States is solidarity and understanding of the tremendous oppression they face, oppression that U.S. intervention caused in the first place. □

## Haiti: A Slave Revolution 200 years after 1804

Published in 2004, “Haiti: A Slave Revolution,” uses art, poetry, photos and essays to document the victory of an enslaved people liberating themselves, and their centuries of continued resistance to embargoes, occupation, dictatorship, U.S. intervention and global capital.

Available as a FREE download at [iacenter.org](https://iacenter.org).





# Civil War to the carceral state

## The role of Black radicals

By Dr. Johanna Fernandez

The following slightly edited testimony was presented by Dr. Johanna Fernandez, an associate professor of history at Baruch College of the City University of New York. She is also the author of the book, “The Young Lords: a Radical History.” Dr. Fernandez spoke at the Oct. 23-25, 2021 “Spirit of Mandela” International Tribunal held in New York City. Read more about the tribunal at [workers.org/2021/11/59858/](http://workers.org/2021/11/59858/) and [workers.org/2021/11/60163/](http://workers.org/2021/11/60163/).

The origins of hyperincarceration today can be found in the 1960s with political imprisonment. And to understand the level of repression unleashed against Civil Rights and Black Power movement organizers, we have to understand what the state would be leaving on the table if Black people prevailed in America in the 1960s.

First of all, the post-World War II period was an era of wars and revolutions against European colonial rule, and Black radicals were making common cause with those colonized countries. And so for the United States, the repression of an organization like the Black Panthers was about winning the Cold War. But then we have to take a step back and think about what else was at stake for the United States. Why did the United States go after Civil Rights and Black Power movements? People that we celebrate today in many cases?

I think it’s important to start with the Civil War, which is known as the “Second American Revolution” and the Civil Rights movement is known as the second Reconstruction, after the first Reconstruction after the Civil War. The problem with the second American Revolution, the Civil War, was that it was a conservative revolution. That’s because it ended the formal system of slavery. But the former slaveholders were ironically invited back to remake society anew.

And I would ask, what usually happens to the losing side in a revolution? It gets decapitated. But in the United States, the losing side was invited back to remake society, and that had massive consequences for how Black Americans live today. That class, the old slavocracy, launched a counterrevolution to regain their wealth and power. And what was at stake? The labor of 4 million

enslaved Africans, which essentially had produced in the South the second wealthiest society humanity had seen, second only to the wealth of the British Empire.

So the bloodthirsty counterrevolution sought to control Black labor and return the Southern economy to as close a replica as possible to slavery. So the slavocracy essentially launched a multipronged campaign that included the birth of the Ku Klux Klan, which is a terrorist organization which recruited white people of all classes as its foot soldiers. The old slavocracy also joined both political parties, the Democratic and Republican parties in the South, disenfranchised Black people, poor white people too, and established Jim Crow.

And for the next century, white Southerners carried out pogroms against Black people as a matter of communal ritual. I’m saying all of this because that’s essentially the system that was held up for a hundred years. The important thing about this is that unlike authoritarian rule or dictatorship, fascism depends on a large swath of the population to carry out the interests of the state, and what we have in the South is a fascist rule for over a hundred years.

Fascist societies deploy terror against people, against citizens. And that’s what we have, what we see happening, in the South and in the North. When the Civil Rights movement emerges in the South, Southern politi-

**Law and order became the language to bring Black people resisting racial apartheid to heel. Politicians concocted, at the same time, a moral panic around crime that linked Black resistance to crime. In the North, the Democratic Party, supposedly the friend of Black people, embraced the same language of the criminalization of Black protests after the rebellions of 1964, 1965 and especially 1967 in the North.**

cians have to somehow save their fascist system, so they launch a campaign of law and order to criminalize the likes of Martin Luther King, whom we celebrate today,

SNCC workers, Fannie Lou Hamer and others.

### Repression breeds resistance

In the aftermath of World War II, a war allegedly fought against Nazi Germany, the slavocracy essentially had to restrain its language, so it had to use law and order as the code word for “exterminating the brutes” in America. But that was the language that essentially sics the police, the carceral state, against those who were resisting authority.

Law and order became the language to bring Black people resisting racial apartheid to heel. Politicians concocted, at the same time, a moral panic around crime that linked Black resistance to crime. In the North, the Democratic Party, supposedly the friend of Black people, embraced the same language of the criminalization of



Fannie Lou Hamer

Black protests after the rebellions of 1964, 1965 and especially 1967 in the North.

The Black Panther Party argued that the real problem in American society was racial apartheid undergirded by an economic system, and therefore there were going to have to be deeper economic and political changes if Black people and other people in this country were going to see freedom.

They pointed out that deindustrialization was tearing apart Black America, that Black people had been excluded from the unions and well-paid jobs. That Black people of all classes had been trapped in the Black ghetto as a result of de facto racial segregation that kept them out of decent housing now and that they were being displaced now by urban renewal, which was that era’s gentrification project.

And they argued that Black people were subjected to the savage inequalities of neighborhood schools and hospitals and summarily lynched in the streets by the police. They were saying all of this and saying that there was going to have to be a restructuring of America, if Black freedom was to be achieved. And they were saying this at the time of the Vietnam War, when the

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## Delaware County, Pennsylvania

# Cops kill 8-year-old girl, teens framed

By Marie Kelly  
Philadelphia

Police gunfire outside a high school football game in Sharon Hill, a Philadelphia suburb, killed 8-year-old Fanta Bility August 27 and wounded four others, including her older sister. Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer admits the three officers’ culpability; however, he chose to file first degree murder charges against two Black teenagers, even though they were not directly involved.

In a legal-gymnastics move that has outraged community members, Stollsteimer cited “transferred intent” as reason to charge the youths, who had fired shots at each other during an argument outside the game. Transferred intent is a term applied when a gun is fired and strikes not the intended victim but an innocent bystander.

The three officers who actually shot and killed Bility are not named and not charged. Their reckless action, in response to a disturbance outside the game, was to fire 20 rounds at a passing car while in a crowd of families exiting the stadium. Police bullets killed Bility and left her family and community angered and questioning why the officers were put on administrative leave with no charges brought against them.

Sharon Hill is a predominantly Black community in Delaware County, and Stollsteimer’s handling of the murder smacks of the same racist judicial system displayed at the Kyle Rittenhouse trial.

Speaking for the Bility family, lawyer Bruce Castor Jr. said the family wants the focus to be on the Delaware County police. Castor states, “From the point of view of the family, these officers killed Fanta and

they need to be held accountable, and those responsible for their supervision and training need to be held accountable for that.” (Philly.com, Nov. 22)

Emanuel Kapelsohn, an expert in police use of force, explained that it is extremely difficult to be accurate when targeting a moving vehicle, and the risk of causing the driver to lose control and crashing prompts many police departments, including Philadelphia, to have policies against such reckless tactics.

Community outrage over the handling of the case by Stollsteimer is building. Over 3,000 people have signed a petition by local activist group Delco Resists to hold the Sharon Hill Police Department accountable for the incident.

In a statement, Delco Resists calls for the immediate firing of the three officers. “These officers not only have poor judgment and lack of

qualifications, they pose a public safety risk and are a danger to our community.” A community meeting is planned for Dec. 4 at the Academy Park High School in Sharon Hill. □



Fanta Bility, 8, fatally shot by police Aug. 27.



GRAPHIC BY KAITLYNN RADLOFF FOR JUSTSEEDS.ORG



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

A bittersweet concession

It is a well-known fact that the U.S. has the highest number of incarcerated people in the developed world at over 2 million. Of that number, there are more than 2,500 people on death row. (independent.co.uk, Oct. 28) The Associated Press reported the percentage of Black people on death row was 42% compared to the overall U.S. Black population of 13%. (Sept. 15, 2020)

These shocking numbers alone speak volumes as to the systemic racism that has disproportionately impacted the Black population, starting with the days of the trade in enslaved Africans.

The vast majority of those on death row are made faceless and isolated behind the walls on purpose, under a heartless system that views them as less than human.

The prisons are concentration camps for the poor and the oppressed, especially for Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples.

But every once in a while a particular case emerges — not because it is so different from other cases, but because its circumstances are so egregious that it generates a mass interest at a grass-roots level. This ignites a spark among high-profile public figures who want to lend their support.

Such is the case of 41-year-old Julius Jones, a Black man who had been sentenced to death in Oklahoma for a murder he did not commit. Jones was just

hours away from being put to death by lethal injection Nov. 18, when Republican Governor Kevin Stitt granted him clemency. Many of Jones’ supporters celebrated the clemency as a victory, which is understandable.

In reality, the victory was a bitter-sweet concession, since Stitt’s clemency overruled the Pardon and Parole Board’s original recommendation on Nov. 1 to commute Jones’ sentence to life in prison with the possibility of parole. As of now, Stitt says that Jones has to spend the rest of his life in prison without any possibility of parole — a slow, tortured death. Jones has maintained his innocence for over 20 years, while his co-defendant, Christopher Jordan, admitted to committing the murder during a carjacking in 1999.

Jones’ case was highlighted in a 2018 ABC documentary, “The Last Defense,” on Oklahoma’s high-profile death penalty and its inhumane use of lethal injections in 2014 and 2015.

In 2019, the Julius Jones Coalition, organized by his family, friends and community activists, gained supporters such as Baker Mayfield — the Cleveland Browns quarterback and a former Heisman Trophy-winner with the Oklahoma Sooners — and Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Steve Kerr from the National Basketball Association’s Golden

State Warriors.

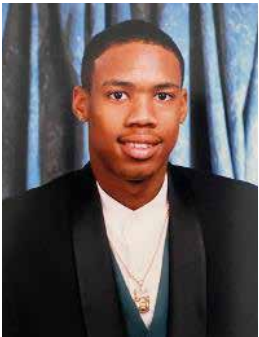
Other NBA players such as Russell Westbrook, Blake Griffin, Trae Young, Buddy Hield and other famous athletes who, like Julius Jones, have played sports in Oklahoma, demanded clemency.

This Coalition was instrumental in organizing Black Lives Matter-related demonstrations to stop the execution of Jones, including at the State Capitol and the State Penitentiary. Students at the University of Oklahoma marched on their campus to demand clemency.

For Julius Jones to serve a life sentence with no hope of parole is not justice. Jones

deserves to not die by lethal weapon. More than that, he deserves to not die in prison — just like the 2,500 plus people on death row deserve a better life outside prison.

The death penalty is no deterrent from crime, including acts of violence rooted in economic, emotional and mental hardships. It is a racist, anti-worker and anti-poor weapon, wielded by a repressive state in a futile attempt to mask poverty and all forms of inequality perpetuated by a capitalist system that puts profits before human needs. Abolish the death penalty! Abolish capitalism! Free them all! □



Julius Jones



PHOTO: SUE OGROCKI

Supporters of Julius Jones marched to the parole board offices in Oklahoma City on Feb. 25, where they presented a petition with over 6.2 million signatures calling for Jones’ sentence to be commuted.

Civil War to the carceral state

The role of Black radicals

Continued from page 9

Vietnamese people were defeating U.S. empire in Vietnam.

This challenge to the United States was too deep for the U.S. to withstand, and so the United States in the 1960s cranked up its apparatus of repression, killing dozens of Black Panthers extrajudicially, including Fred Hampton and Bob Clark, through the counterintelligence program of the FBI. Its politicians passed a series of carceral laws, including the crime bill of 1968, which made it possible to wiretap without a court order, legalize stop and frisk for the first time in American history and expand the

power of the police to keep Black people in their place and to bring rebellious Black people to heel.

They passed the H. Rap Brown Law in 1968, which made it illegal to cross state lines to give a speech. If you look closely, the decade of the 1960s ended with the arrest and criminalization of Black radicals. The movement turned from a movement for jobs, against discrimination and police violence, toward a movement to free our



Fred Hampton

activists, our leaders, people who were fighting to defend themselves against the homicidal campaign that the state launched against them; and their people were essentially imprisoned.

Contrast this to the white supremacists who took over Congress on Jan. 6, who have mostly gotten fines. So after the state unleashed a campaign of repression against Black radicals in the 1960s, after they convinced Americans that this was

good law and good policy, in the 1980s and ’90s, they generalized these policies against the majority of Black and Latinx people, who were now extra bodies in the context of deindustrialization. These people now needed to be warehoused.

The objective of my remarks has been to illustrate the ways in which what we know today as the largest carceral nation in the world emerges, not randomly in the 1980s and ’90s; it emerges out of a campaign unleashed against the freedom fighters of this country, who civilized American society in that period, Black radicals. □

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# A Sandinista’s view on autonomy

## ‘Unity, diversity, interculturality’

*The following is part three of a presentation given by Johnny Hodgson, Sandinista National Liberation Front’s Political Secretary for the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean (RACCS) on Oct. 6 in Managua, Nicaragua, to a U.S. delegation comprised of Coleen Littlejohn, Sara Flounders, Monica Moorehead, Joav Elinevsky and Stan Smith. The transcript is slightly edited. Read parts one and two at [tinyurl.com/v42fujfk](https://tinyurl.com/v42fujfk) and [tinyurl.com/ykxpmzeu](https://tinyurl.com/ykxpmzeu), respectively.*

In 1934, Dr. Hudson from the Caribbean coast was able to represent us in the National Congress. When he got a chance to talk in the Congress, he questioned: “Why is it that in the rest of the country, they have roads; they have a seaport; they have electrical energy; they have water. Why is it that we don’t have these things on the Caribbean coast?” This was like 87 years ago. We can tell him that he can rest in peace now, because those things that he was speaking out for, we are getting them.

In my region — the South Caribbean coast of Nicaragua — we have 12 municipalities, and in 2007 three of these municipalities had roads and paved roads. And today 10 of the municipalities have roads. Nine of these highways are paved, and one is not paved. So two municipalities don’t have any roads.

Twenty-five percent of the people had access to electrical energy. And now actually 75% of people have access to electrical energy on the Caribbean coast. But we’re not going to stop there; we are aiming at everybody. The type of development that we’re talking about is a development where no one stays behind. We can’t say we are developing; we’re happier; we have well-being, if the Rama people don’t have the possibility of producing their food and having access to water and to electrical energy, et cetera. So that is the key thing. Desarrollo donde nadie se quede atrás. (Development where no one stays behind.) And that’s why the model is Christian Socialist solidarity.

Atención Primaria de Salud (primary health care) is what we got. This includes identifying a person that is suffering from some disease or finding a person that’s pregnant, helping them to see how the evolution of their pregnancy is going, providing gynecology care. It includes health centers, health posts, maternal homes, brigades. It includes blood banks. It includes milk banks on the Caribbean coast. We have three milk banks all over Nicaragua and on the Caribbean coast.

### Development under the Sandinista government

So it’s a huge network of human resources and infrastructure that’s dedicated to help, and that’s why we were so effective also in dealing with COVID-19. Nicaragua currently has 77 hospitals. This is twice the amount of hospitals than in Costa Rica. They also go hand in hand with the number of doctors that are specialized in internal medicine, in gynecology. So these things are part of an enormous democratic effort to make sure that, as Dr. Hudson was saying, that nobody is left behind. Nobody should be left behind in this development process, in this stage of the revolution.

In explaining the electoral process, in 2007 when we made this development strategy, it was a great thing. This

electoral strategy formulated a proposal and was submitted to consultation with different groups of people, different sectors.

But on the Caribbean coast — even though Daniel Ortega was in government here in the Pacific — in the country and the Caribbean coast, the neoliberals were still in government, and the people from the Caribbean coast voted for the Sandinista government in 2014, massively.

To give you an idea, we have a regional council made up of 45 members. That’s our regional parliament. In the voting of 2014, the Sandinistas got 30 members of the 45 seats. Then after the troubles [in 2018], we had elections in 2019, and the Sandinistas passed from 30 seats in the Congress to 32. So we grew. And then we go into election next month [Nov. 7] in Nicaragua, and definitely the things that we’re talking about are not just things that the people see.

And I tell you, our parents always dreamed that someday we would have a road. And all kinds of governments pass, and we never get that road. You know what they used to tell us? That it is impossible to build a road to Bluefields, where I come from.

Our parents tried to build that road on their own, trying to do sales and things to collect money to build a road, because the government said, “No, I am not going to help you build that road, because it’s impossible.” And all our parents tried to do it. Today we have that road. You actually come to Bluefields.

Our people always aspired to have electrical energy. This is a fight. I mean, this is a thing that when our people had the opportunity to mention or to talk out or to denounce, they say, “Why is it that we can’t have the right to enjoy electrical energy?” Today, more than 75% of the people living on the Caribbean coast have electrical energy. And the other 25%, most of them are very, very close to getting it. They see the work being done. And access to water—I mean, 4% of the people had access to water, and 10 times that amount of people have access to water today.

So people see these things, and people are willing to support the Sandinistas for these things, material things, but also for what I was telling you about convivencia comunitaria [community coexistence]. People appreciate that a lot that the Sandinistas are trying to implement what we need so much, unity and diversity, this interculturality — we have it in us. But it’s so nice to have a government promoting that, pushing for that, striving for this interculturality.

Diversity used to be seen as an obstacle. The government said, “We will not be able to advance or develop, if we’re talking different languages.” You know, their idea was uniformity. And so people appreciate this, and the surveys say that the people from the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua are going to support the Sandinistas in these elections.

Now the other element of that is communication. So one thing in is the hospital, because for a woman in somewhere like across the Rio Grande who needed to get to a hospital five years ago, 10 years ago, they would have to take a boat for about two days if it’s a slow boat, or if it’s a fast boat like nine, 10 hours to get to a hospital. So it’s not just the hospital, but it’s the roads.

Now I hear that to go from La Cruz to El Tortuguero is four hours by road. So



Bluefields-Nueva Guinea Highway opens on Caribbean coast in Nicaragua

those are elements when you talk about development and progress, etc., those are key elements to rights and well-being. People ask, “Why are you fighting so much for the road on the coast?” And I just like to tell this story.

A gentleman had a heart event in La Cornelia Island at three o’clock in the afternoon. They rushed him to a clinic. And the doctor said, “You have to get on a plane.” By the time they stabilized him and tried to get him on a plane, the plane left. So now he’s stuck in La Cornelia overnight. He has to wait now at least 15 hours for the plane to come back again. So he survives through the night. The plane comes at 8:00 in the morning. They try to get him on. Finally, they get him on the plane, and he comes to Managua. So why the argument about why a hospital in La Cornelia?

La Cornelia has 10,000 people, and you have a hospital that costs something like \$8 million. So when you go to the demographic decision making, it didn’t make sense to invest \$9, \$10 million in a hospital for 10,000 people.

When you have any municipality in Managua or any municipality close to Managua—Chichigalpa, for example—you didn’t have a hospital. And it’s like 300,000 people that live in that municipality.

So 10,000 people vis-à-vis \$10 million to 200,000 people. Any bureaucrat sitting around the table would decide for the 200,000. And if it’s a bureaucrat with a political ledger, he said, “This is 200,000 votes.” That is why we need to be around the table where the decision making is taking place, in order to influence decision making in policy. So finally, the hospital was built in La Cornelia. That gentleman was my father, who survived, by the way.

And to show you that the farthest municipality from Managua off of the course is Ocotal, that’s on the border with Honduras. It takes you four hours to get from Ocotal to any hospital in Managua. From Cornelia, it takes you a lifetime. That is what I think would be described here by decision policy. □

## El Día Nacional del Duelo

*Continúa de la página 12*

indio americano; y denunciar la hipocresía de un sistema que glorifica esa represión. Cumplimos ese propósito y conseguimos un espíritu de unidad que se extendió por todo el país”. (“Russell Means Recounts NDOM, 1971”).

### Luto, acusación y protesta por la represión de los pueblos nativos

Todos los años, desde la primera protesta en 1970, los manifestantes se han reunido en Cole’s Hill para celebrar un Día Nacional de Luto. En el Día Nacional de Luto de 1972, una joven fue agredida por la policía por llevar una bandera estadounidense colocada al revés sobre los hombros. En el Día Nacional de Luto de 1974, Wamsutta y los manifestantes liberaron los huesos de una joven wampanoag de 16 años del Museo Pilgrim Hall.

En 1997, los organizadores y manifestantes del Día Nacional del Duelo fueron atacados y maltratados por la policía de Plymouth, que detuvo a 25 manifestantes. El proceso judicial y el acuerdo resultantes condujeron a la instalación de dos placas, una que marcaba el origen y la finalidad del Día Nacional del Duelo, y otra que conmemoraba a Metacombet (el rey Felipe), que

lideró la resistencia contra los colonos ingleses en 1675.

El acuerdo también garantizó la retirada de los cargos contra los 25 manifestantes y protegió el derecho a marchar sin permiso cada Día Nacional del Duelo.

Los manifestantes se reunirán en Cole’s Hill el 25 de noviembre de este año y seguirán haciéndolo en el futuro. Como dijo Moonanum James, hijo de Wamsutta Frank James y el difunto colíder de UAINE, a la multitud en el Día Nacional de Luto de 2019:

“Seguiremos reuniéndonos en esta colina hasta que las corporaciones y el ejército estadounidense dejen de contaminar la Tierra. Hasta que desmantelamos el brutal aparato de encarcelamiento masivo. No nos detendremos hasta que la opresión de nuestros hermanos de dos espíritus sea cosa del pasado. Cuando los sin techo tengan casa. Cuando los niños dejen de ser arrebatados a sus padres y encerrados en jaulas. Cuando los palestinos reclamen la patria y la autonomía que Israel les ha negado durante los últimos 70 años. Cuando ninguna persona pase hambre o se deje morir por tener poco o ningún acceso a una atención sanitaria de calidad. Cuando la insulina sea gratuita. Cuando la represión sindical sea cosa del pasado. Hasta entonces, la lucha continuará”. □





MO FOTO: RACHEL JONES

Plymouth, Massachusetts, noviembre de 2019.

# ¡Viva la Revolución Cubana!

Cuando el 8 de enero de 1959, un triunfante Fidel Castro entró en La Habana, llamó a los revolucionarios cubanos a “acomodarse a los objetivos pacíficos de la Revolución”. Habló con una paloma blanca en el hombro, un símbolo asociado a Fidel durante toda su larga vida.

Pero el imperio estadounidense, con su punto más meridional a sólo 90 millas de la nación isleña socialista, nunca ha permitido que Cuba conozca la paz. La invasión de Cuba patrocinada por Estados Unidos en 1961 en Playa Girón (Bahía de Cochinos) sufrió una estrepitosa derrota, pero el presidente John F. Kennedy impuso un bloqueo económico en 1962.

Este acto de guerra económica sigue vigente hasta hoy y, de hecho, ha sido endurecido por el Congreso en más de una ocasión. Los cubanos siguen sufriendo los efectos del bloqueo a través de la escasez de alimentos, medicinas, suministros médicos, materiales de construcción y mucho más. Aunque la ciencia médica cubana está muy avanzada, incluyendo el desarrollo de las propias vacunas cubanas COVID, la distribución de las vacunas se ha visto obstaculizada por la escasez de jeringuillas.

La guerra económica de Estados Unidos se ha combinado con numerosos actos terroristas de contrarrevolucionarios con sede en Miami y una larga historia

**WORKERS WORLD**  
**MUNDO OBRERO**  
*editorial*

que tendrán lugar el 15 de noviembre en Cuba. Son un ataque financiado por el imperialismo estadounidense, que ha pasado las últimas seis décadas creando la misma escasez por la que los “manifestantes” dicen estar “protestando”. Agentes pagados han manipulado las redes sociales para fomentar y movilizar el resentimiento derivado de la escasez.

Como señaló acertadamente el presidente cubano Miguel Díaz-Canel, “los funcionarios diplomáticos estadounidenses se reúnen con frecuencia con los líderes de la contrarrevolución, a quienes proporcionan orientación, estímulo y apoyo logístico y financiero.” (Reuters, 25 de octubre)

Estos agentes cuentan con el pleno respaldo de los medios de comunicación capitalistas estadounidenses y sus títeres en falsos grupos

de intentos de asesinato contra Fidel.

Es en este contexto que hay que ver las llamadas “protestas”

de “defensa” como Human Rights Watch.

Sin embargo, el gobierno cubano y las organizaciones de masas, como los Comités de Defensa de la Revolución, la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas y la Confederación de Trabajadores de Cuba, se han acercado a las personas que tienen quejas en un esfuerzo por involucrar a la gente en la solución de problemas.

**Política de Estados Unidos: no hay paz para Cuba**

El presidente Joe Biden o el Congreso podrían poner fin al bloqueo de un plumazo y permitir que Cuba persiga sus “objetivos pacíficos” -alimentación, vivienda, empleo, educación y atención médica



MO FOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

La gente muestra su solidaridad con la Cuba socialista en la Misión ante la ONU, el 15 de noviembre, en Nueva York.

## La lucha desde 1970 hasta ahora El Día Nacional del Duelo

Por K. James

¿Cuáles son los mitos fundacionales de Estados Unidos? ¿Quién los creó, y a quiénes borran y perjudican?

Durante los últimos 51 años, United American Indians of New England (UAINE) y sus partidarios se han reunido en el llamado Día de Acción de Gracias en Plymouth, Massachusetts, para plantear estas preguntas, confrontar las mitologías de los colonos y conmemorar un Día Nacional de Luto por los pueblos indígenas asesinados por el colonialismo e imperialismo de los colonos en todo el mundo.

La protesta del Día Nacional de Luto fue fundada por Wamsutta Frank James, miembro de la tribu Wampanoag de Aquinnah. En 1970, Wamsutta había sido invitado por la Commonwealth de Massachusetts a dar un discurso en un banquete que conmemoraba el 350 aniversario de la llegada de los peregrinos. Los organizadores del banquete imaginaron que Wamsutta pronunciaría un discurso elogioso y de reconocimiento, cantando las alabanzas del proyecto colonial de los colonos estadounidenses y agradeciendo a los peregrinos el haber traído la “civilización” a los wampanoag.

**El orgullo y el poder de Wamsutta Frank James**

Sin embargo, el discurso que escribió Wamsutta, que se basaba en hechos

históricos en lugar de la ficción hueca representada en el mito de Acción de Gracias, estaba muy lejos de ser elogioso.

En su discurso, Wamsutta no sólo nombró las atrocidades cometidas por los peregrinos, sino que también reflexionó sobre el destino de los wampanoag a manos de los colonos. El discurso contenía un poderoso mensaje de orgullo nativo americano. “Nuestro espíritu se niega a morir”, escribió Wamsutta. “Ayer caminamos por los senderos del bosque y los caminos de arena. Hoy debemos caminar por las carreteras de macadán y los caminos. Nos unimos. . . Nos mantenemos firmes y orgullosos; y antes de que pasen demasiadas lunas, corregiremos los males que hemos permitido que nos sucedan.”

Cuando los funcionarios estatales vieron una copia anticipada del discurso de Wamsutta, se negaron a permitirle pronunciarlo, diciendo que el discurso era demasiado “incendiario”.

El discurso contenía un espíritu revolucionario, claramente inspirado en el incipiente “Movimiento del Poder Rojo”, que exigía la igualdad de derechos y la autodeterminación de los nativos americanos. Esto, sin duda, asustó a los funcionarios estatales, que probablemente pensaron en la Ocupación de Alcatraz de 1969, una protesta de 19 meses en la que los nativos americanos y sus partidarios tomaron la penitenciaría federal abandonada de la isla de Alcatraz, en California.

La Ocupación de Alcatraz fue la primera protesta intertribal que obtuvo la atención nacional, y había infundido temor en los corazones de la clase dirigente, porque estaba quedando claro que los nativos americanos, al igual que los afroamericanos y otros pueblos oprimidos, estaban diciendo “no más”.

**Intento de supresión del discurso desafiante**

Aferrados a la mitología del Día de Acción de Gracias, los funcionarios estatales le dijeron a Wamsutta que escribirían un discurso más “apropiado” para el banquete, pero él se negó a que le pusieran palabras en la boca. Su discurso suprimido se publicó en los periódicos de todo el país, y Wamsutta decidió que había que hacer algo para que la verdad sobre los peregrinos siguiera siendo escuchada. Él y otros activistas nativos locales comenzaron a planear una protesta.

El volante de esta protesta, que circuló entre los nativos de todo el país, decía: “¿Por qué tenemos que estar agradecidos? Los Indios Americanos Unidos de Nueva Inglaterra han declarado el Día de Acción de Gracias como Día Nacional de Luto para los nativos americanos”.

**Primer Día Nacional de Luto**

Miembros del Movimiento Indio Americano (AIM), como Russell Means y Dennis Banks, así como nativos de todo el

país, viajaron a Plymouth, Massachusetts, para celebrar el primer Día Nacional de Luto. El 27 de noviembre de 1970, una multitud de unos 200 nativos americanos y simpatizantes se reunieron en Cole’s Hill, en Plymouth. Los líderes nativos americanos pronunciaron discursos sobre las deplorables condiciones a las que se enfrentaban los nativos americanos, las acciones genocidas del gobierno de Estados Unidos y la devastación causada por los peregrinos.

A continuación, el grupo se dirigió al paseo marítimo, donde enterraron Plymouth Rock en arena y la pintaron de rojo. Un pequeño grupo de manifestantes se dirigió al Mayflower II, una réplica del Mayflower original, y subió al barco. Subieron a las jarcias y arrancaron la bandera de San Jorge, el patrón de Inglaterra. También arrojaron por la borda una estatua de cera del capitán del Mayflower, Christopher Jones, junto con la bandera de San Jorge.

A continuación, los manifestantes se dirigieron a una “recreación” de la primera cena de Acción de Gracias, donde volcaron las mesas diciendo que “no comerían la comida del hombre blanco”.

Un líder del AIM diría más tarde sobre el primer Día Nacional de Luto que “es un día que los indios americanos no olvidarán. Fuimos a Plymouth con un propósito: llorar desde el desembarco de los peregrinos la represión del

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